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In the Claims

We enclose new claims 1 – 8 for substitution for the claims on file:

1. (currently amended) A continuous method for cutting [freshly pasted] expanded, punched or cast continuous metal mesh strip freshly pasted with a polymer-free paste into paperless battery plates for lead acid batteries with a cutting device including a cutting roll having cutting blades mounted thereon, an index mechanism and an anvil roll opposed to said cutting roll for receiving the freshly pasted continuous metal mesh strip therebetween comprising heating said [cutting device to a temperature above at least about 150°C] cutting blades, the cutting roll, the index mechanism and the anvil roll to a temperature in the range of about 160 to 300°C whereby the paste does not adhere to the heated [cutting device] cutting blades, the cutting roll, the index mechanism and the anvil roll and cutting the freshly pasted continuous metal mesh strip with said heated cutting device into discrete paperless battery plates.

2. (cancelled) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which said cutting device is heated to a temperature of at least 150°C.

3. (cancelled) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which said cutting device is heated to a temperature in the temperature range of about 160 to 300°C.

4. (cancelled) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the cutting device comprises cutting blades mounted on a cutting roll.

5. (cancelled) A method as claimed in claim 4 in which the cutting device additionally comprises an index mechanism, an anvil roll opposed to said cutting roll for receiving the pasted metal mesh strip therebetween and in which the cutting blades, the cutting roll, the index mechanism and the anvil roll are heated to a temperature in the range of about 160 to 300°C.

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [5] 1 in which the cutting blades, the cutting die roll, the index mechanism and the anvil roll are heated to a temperature in the range of about 180 to 210°C.

7. (cancelled) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the cutting device is a linear reciprocating cutter.

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8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim [5] 1 in which the metal mesh strip is a lead or lead alloy expanded mesh strip.